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AUTHOR	Breen, Eileen
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ABSTRACT

This paper examines EMERALD LIS and how it facilitates the use of information contained in LIS (library and information science) journals for improvements and progress. EMERALD LIS is a full-text database of journals in information management, library technology, library and information service management, and collection management/development. EMERALD LIS journals comprise articles in both HTML and PDF formats, secondary material in HTML format, and current awareness materials. The EMERALD LIS database is designed to be searchable and browseable, and it offers knowledge-based retrieval. EMERALD LIS journals link to and from each other, as well as to and from the articles, abstracts, and reviews of the publisher's journals in other subject areas. The EMERALD LIS journals are accessible to the community of interest in a number of ways, including direct subscription, subscription to a database that is linked to EMERALD LIS, pay per view, and through the LibraryLINK free information service. (MES)

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LIS Journals in the knowledge age

Eileen Breen
Managing Editor, MCB University Press/EMERALD
Bradford UK

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Abstract:

Examines EMERALD LIS and how it facilitates the use of information contained in LIS journals for improvements and progress. In particular, how EMERALD LIS journals are connected to each other and the wider literature electronically (both LIS and other disciplines); and their content structured, organised and made accessible for knowledge-based retrieval.

Introduction

Journals are a communication mechanism. Their content reports on the research, experimentation and implementation which contributes to knowledge. This paper outlines how one LIS journal publisher is contributing to the knowledge age through the content mix, structure and dissemination of its publications.

EMERALD LIS

Is a full text database of journals which fall into 4 main categories:

Information management

- Campus-wide Information Systems
- Information Management & Computer Security
- Information Technology & People
- Industrial Management & Data Systems
- Internet Research
- Journal of Intellectual Capital
- Journal of Knowledge Management

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- OCLC Systems & Services
- Online Information Review

Library technology
- Library Hi-Tech
- Library Hi-Tech News
- New Library World
- OCLC Systems & Services
- The Electronic Library
- Online Information Review
- Campus-wide Information Systems
- Electronic Resources Reviews (archive only)
- Information Management & Computer Security
- Information Technology & People
- Internet Research

Library and information service management
- Library Management
- The Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances
- Library Review
- Reference Services Review
- New Library World
- Asian Libraries (archive only)
- Librarian Career development (archive only)
- Library Consortium Management: An International Journal (archive only)

Collection management/development
- Collection Building
- Interlending & Document Supply
- Reference Reviews
- Reference Services Review
- Online Information Review
- Electronic resources reviews (archive only)
- The International Journal on Grey Literature (archive only)

Content mix

EMERALD LIS journals comprise a mix of the following types of articles in both HTML and PDF format:
- Wholly theoretical
- Theoretical with worked example
- Theoretical with application in practice
- Literature review
- Case study
- Journalistic
- Comparative/evaluation
- Technical
- Survey

An archive of the articles' abstracts from 1989 to date; and full text from 1994 to date is included.

Secondary material in HTML format:

- Reviews of books
- Reviews of electronic resources
- Reviews of articles published in the journals of other publishers
- Abstracts of articles from other publishers' journals.
- Abstracts of research in progress

And current awareness:

- News
- Conference reports
- Features
- Opinion and commentary
- Interviews

Structure

EMERALD LIS is a database which designed to be searchable, browseable, connected to and from the publisher's content in other disciplines; and the content of other full text and secondary publishers via CrossRef. Searching and browsing may be subscription permitting, or regardless of subscription.

Search

EMERALD has a quick and advanced search facility. Quick searching can be by:

- Journal title
- Keyword
- Article title
- Author name
- Full text

Search is fully Boolean and wild cards may be used. The advanced facility incorporates the following refinements:

- Search limited by EMERALD content indicator – i.e. stated implications for research or practice; stated originality of argument or concept; or general readability and accessibility to the non-specialist
- Search limited by article type – i.e. classification as wholly theoretical, survey, technical etc.

A saved search option allows users to retrieve, edit and re-run previous search terms within a user profile.

Browse

Is possible by:

- EMERALD subject area (e.g. library and information services, information management, or some other discipline)
- Journal title
- Keyword
- Article title
- Author name
- Library of Congress classification.

Knowledge- based Retrieval

Results can be ordered by:

- relevancy (number of occurrences of the search words in the results; and rarity of the search terms);

- newest first or by oldest first.

Connections

The LIS journals of EMERALD link to and from each other (see Figure 1); and to and from the articles, abstracts and reviews of the publisher's journals in other subject areas (see Figure 2). These other subject areas are:

- Accounting, auditing and economics
- Continuing professional development
- Education
- Engineering and materials science
- Environmental management
- Food and nutrition
- General management
- Healthcare management
- Hospitality and services management
- HR management
- Logistics and supply chain management
- Marketing
- Operations and production management
- Police management
- Public sector management
- Quality management
- The built environment
- Training

They also connect with the abstracts and full text of other electronic publishers via EMERALD "key readings" and reference linking (see Figures 3 and 4).

Dissemination

The LIS journals of EMERALD are accessible to the community of interest in a number of ways.

Direct subscription

Organisations can make a standalone subscription to the database, or they can subscribe via a consortium. Subscription can be for one year only, or for multi-years. Consortia which are already signed up are:

USA and Canada

- AMIGOS
- BCR
- CAPCON/CIRLA
- CIC
- CREPUQ
- CSU
- NELINET
- OCUL
- OHIOLINK
- SOLINET AND PALINET
- UNAM

Europe
- BIBSAM of Sweden
- CBUC of Spain
- FINELIB of Finland
- HEAL of Greece
- SPOC of Spain and Portugal
- UKB of the Netherlands

South Africa
- ADAMASTOR
- GAELIC and FRELICO

Rest of world
- A Korean open consortium of 76 institutions
- MALMAD in Israel

Subscribing organisations can access the content of EMERALD by connecting their networks to the database direct for full functionality and content mix; or they can access via one of the agent gateways to e-journals which has an agreement with EMERALD:
- SwetsBlackwell's Swetnet*Navigator*
- EBSCOOnline
- OCLC's ECO

These interfaces offer only simple search and retrieval of articles only – none of the advanced search and retrieval features of EMERALD are possible via a common interface. Nor is the rich content mix of the journals which comprise EMERALD, and the subject area connections with articles, abstracts and reviews of other disciplines. However, they do offer the advantage of fulltext search and retrieval across publishers.

The EMERALD network licence is very liberal, and complies with ICOLC guidelines. Notable features are that it includes provision for:

- Continued access to the licenced material which was published during the subscription period, after termination of the licence for reasons other than cause or breach
- Printing and copying of single copies of parts of licenced materials for authorised use, e.g for use in non-commercial course packs or electronic reserves
- Supply of single copies to other libraries for the purposes of non-commercial research or private study
- Agreements to cover access for distance learners and users outside the country of the consortium membership
- Agreements to cover local hosting of data

Subscription to a database which is linked to EMERALD

At the time of writing, EMERALD has agreements with:
- Fulltext database aggregators, e.g. EBSCOHost, IngentaJournals Online
- Bibliographic databases, e.g. HUBER E-JOURNALS, MEOS, InformationQuest, SilverLinker

Pay per view

The EMERALD shopping basket facility allows users to select articles, reviews and abstracts; and then pay per view.

LibraryLINK

Content from the library and information journals of EMERALD is also available to the community of interest via the free information service its publisher provides to librarians and information professionals – LibraryLINK.

LibraryLINK is an online service, updated monthly, which provides the following:

- Commentary and opinion from a dedicated editorial team on the current issues affecting librarians and information professionals. Where appropriate, links are made to the full text of key EMERALD articles on the subject.
- News
- A conference diary
- Details of publishing opportunities (via books, journals, and conferences)
- Announcements of new professional books and journals
- Reviews of professional books and journals
- Recommendations to Web sites
- A discussion area
- The opportunity to input into the product and service development of EMERALD via participation in annual workshops during IFLA and ALA Midwinter.

Conclusion

How LIS journals are structured, made available and accessible to their community of interest can affect the contribution research and development makes to knowledge. As one of the major communication mechanisms, journals need to contain a mix of types of content . That content needs to interrelate with the record of other work carried out in the field and in other disciplines. How journal content is viewed should be able to be personalised to the needs of the information user.

In doing all these things, EMERALD facilitates the translation of LIS information into knowledge.

CAPTIONS
(Not available electronically – please contact the author)

Figure 1. Example of search and retrieval of articles, reviews and abstracts across the range of EMERALD library and information journals.

Figure 2. Example of search and retrieval of articles, reviews and abstracts across disciplines

Figure 3a. Abstract of an EMERALD article retrieved, showing the link icon to "Key readings" – abstracts of articles by other publishers on the subject

Figure 3b. Listing of the articles by other publishers on the subject

Figure 4a. EMERALD makes links to the wider literature cited in its articles via "active reference links"

Figure 4b. Sources for obtaining copies of works cited in EMERALD articles